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Programme planning

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017

Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 9
United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

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Overall orientation

9.1 The General Assembly, in its resolution 57/7, endorsed the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as the framework within which the international community should concentrate its efforts for Africa's development and called upon the United Nations system to enhance its advocacy role and public information activities in support of Africa's development. In the same resolution, the Assembly underscored the need for a structure in the Secretariat in New York to review and report on the support provided by the United Nations system and the international community for NEPAD and on the coordinated implementation of outcomes of summits and conferences as they relate to Africa. Subsequently, in its resolution 57/300, the Assembly endorsed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and entrusted to it the role of coordinating reports and advocacy in support of NEPAD.

9.2 The Assembly welcomed actions taken at the regional level by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) regarding the priority areas of NEPAD. The Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations system organizations working in Africa has become the core mechanism for enhancing United Nations system-wide coherence, coordination and cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

9.3 NEPAD has been the overarching framework for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa. Despite progress made by African countries, levels of poverty, food insecurity and maternal and infant mortality remain high. Moreover, prospects for sustainable development are threatened by challenges to peace, security, governance, the rule of law and the environment. In the political declaration on Africa's development needs, adopted in 2008 (see General Assembly resolution 63/1), Member States noted that the full and timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa remained elusive and reaffirmed their commitment to address Africa's special needs.

9.4 NEPAD remains critical to the three dimensions of sustainable development in Africa (economic, social and environmental), as highlighted in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex). Efforts to devise a post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals reflecting Africa's needs and priorities are currently under way, including through intergovernmental processes such as the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

9.5 While the African Peace and Security Architecture of the African Union has contributed to peace and security on the continent, several African countries continue to experience factors of instability that undermine durable peace and sustainable development. The need for a comprehensive response to promoting peace, security and development was recognized in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871-S/1998/318). The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/293, requested the Secretary-General to continue to monitor and report to the Assembly on an annual basis on persistent and emerging challenges to durable

peace and sustainable development in Africa and on the approach taken and the support provided by the United Nations system.

9.6 The United Nations is working to further support Africa in overcoming barriers to peace through the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/302, in which the Assembly acknowledged the efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council in the areas of peace and security, including the joint annual consultative meetings between members of the two Councils. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the role of the Interdepartmental/Inter-agency Task Force on Africa of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to bring greater coherence and coordination in the United Nations support to Africa for the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union and its successor programme, the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, and other processes.

9.7 Increasingly, the international community has recognized the inextricable link between peace, security and development and the need to establish lasting conditions for peace as a basis for sustainable development. The Secretary-General, during visits to the Great Lakes Region and the Sahel with international and continental partners, has committed to provide practical support for peace, security and development in Africa. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will further reinforce the peace-security-development nexus in its advocacy and policy work.

9.8 The strategic plans of the African Union Commission and NEPAD for the period 2014-2017 coincide with ongoing negotiations to craft a successor programme to the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union by 2016 and the decision to develop an African agenda for the 50 years leading to 2063 to increase the coherence of the actions and initiatives of the African Union and its organs and of key stakeholders and partners. It is expected that the strategic plans of the African Union Commission and NEPAD will be adjusted to take account of the strategic directions charted by the African agenda to 2063 once it has been approved by the African Union. This will necessitate continuous adjustments in the implementation of the biennial programme plan to ensure that the United Nations remains supportive of changing NEPAD priorities.

9.9 On the basis of General Assembly resolutions 67/293 and 67/294 and the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (A/68/506), the Assembly has decided to strengthen the Office to enable it to address emerging challenges and opportunities at the global and regional levels and to better support Africa, particularly NEPAD. The report contains recommendations for specific measures to strengthen the Office so that it can implement its existing and expanded mandate more effectively.

9.10 The General Assembly has also strengthened the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to enable it to implement the mandate on the United Nations monitoring mechanism. The mechanism was established by Assembly resolution 66/293, following the report of the Secretary-General on a monitoring mechanism to review commitments towards Africa's development needs (A/65/165), submitted in compliance with paragraph 39 of the political declaration on Africa's development needs.

9.11 The Office the Special Adviser on Africa provides overall coordination and leadership for the programme, the joint responsibility for which it shares with ECA and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat.

Subprogramme 1
Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen international cooperation in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased international community support for Africa's development, in general, and for NEPAD, in particular	(a) (i) Increased number of United Nations system activities in support of Africa's development
	(ii) Increased number of international forums addressing South-South cooperation in support of Africa
(b) Improved monitoring of the implementation of commitments towards Africa's development	(b) (i) Increased number of monitored and assessed commitments by African countries towards meeting Africa's development needs
	(ii) Increased number of monitored and assessed commitments by Africa's development partners towards meeting Africa's development needs
(c) Improved United Nations coordination in providing support to Africa's development	(c) Increased number of projects, programmes and activities coordinated through the Interdepartmental/Inter-agency Task Force on Africa in support of Africa's development
(d) Increased international awareness of Africa's development issues	(d) Increased number of visits to the websites of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa

Strategy

9.12 Responsibility for subprogramme 1 is vested in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa. The subprogramme will ensure that African development issues are effectively addressed in the intergovernmental debates and adequately incorporated into the resolutions emerging from that process. It will endeavour to raise international awareness of African development issues through its policy, analytical and advocacy activities. It will seek to engage key interlocutors involved in Africa's development to raise awareness and mobilize support for Africa's development through participation in key forums. It will work to strengthen coherence and coordination of United Nations efforts in support of Africa by holding meetings of the Interdepartmental/Inter-agency Task Force on Africa. It will also strengthen its engagement with the private sector and civil society, including

the African diaspora, to mobilize international support for Africa's development. It will continue to analyse and draw attention to the root causes of conflict in African countries, monitor early warning signals and make recommendations on steps that need to be taken to tackle violent conflict in African countries.

9.13 The subprogramme will ensure that Africa remains a priority in the formulation of a post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals and in their implementation in the future. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will work closely with other United Nations bodies at the global, regional and subregional levels.

9.14 The Office will also work closely with Member States, the African Union, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, regional economic communities, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism and the United Nations system in the performance of its functions. It will work with the private sector to raise awareness of investment opportunities in Africa and support NEPAD in mobilizing investment for its flagship programmes, including the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa.

9.15 As part of the United Nations monitoring mechanism, the Office will monitor implementation of all commitments made towards Africa's development. In that regard, the Office will mobilize the United Nations system through the Interdepartmental/Inter-agency Task Force on Africa and elicit inputs from civil society, the private sector and academia in line with General Assembly resolution 66/293. As a co-organizer of the Tokyo international conferences on African development, the Office will work to ensure the full implementation of commitments made at the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The Office will promote South-South cooperation and support African countries in devising effective strategies to maximize the benefits from those partnerships.

9.16 In its capacity as the convener of the advocacy and communications cluster of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will work with the African Union Commission, ECA, the Department of Public Information and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to develop a comprehensive advocacy and communications strategy for NEPAD, as well as for the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union and its successor.

Subprogramme 2
Regional coordination of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen United Nations system-wide support for the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme, at the regional and subregional levels, within the context of the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union and its successor, as well as the strategic plans and priorities of African Union organs and institutions

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced coherence, coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies and organizations in support of African Union	(a) Increased number of joint projects implemented by United Nations agencies and organizations through the Regional

strategic plans and priorities, including the NEPAD programme, at the regional and subregional levels	Coordination Mechanism in Africa in support of African Union strategic plans and priorities, including the NEPAD programme, at the regional and subregional levels
(b) Enhanced capacity of regional and subregional organizations, particularly the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, regional economic communities and intergovernmental organizations to design, implement and monitor their programmes	(b) Increased number of joint capacity development projects and activities implemented at the regional and subregional levels by the United Nations system in the context of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa, the Subregional Coordination Mechanism and their thematic clusters

Strategy

9.17 Substantive responsibility for subprogramme 2 is vested in ECA. The activities will be undertaken by the Capacity Development Division. ECA will work closely with other United Nations bodies at the global, regional and subregional levels, particularly with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, the Department of Public Information, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Regional Directors' teams through various mechanisms, including the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa and its thematic clusters.

9.18 The strategy will include enhanced support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme through inter-agency coordination of the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union and its successor. Coordination will be strengthened with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, regional economic communities, the African Development Bank and other regional organizations to ensure effective support for the strategic plans of the African Union Commission and NEPAD and reporting on progress in the implementation of United Nations support.

9.19 The subprogramme will develop a regional development cooperation framework aligned with the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme to strengthen the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa and United Nations support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

9.20 ECA will deepen technical support for Member States, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in their priority areas. It will substantively contribute to the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of NEPAD and work to implement resolutions arising from the reports. ECA will develop the capacity of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency to plan and coordinate regional projects in the context of the African agenda to 2063.

9.21 As the secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa, ECA will strengthen coherence and coordination within the clusters by developing operational guidelines and business plans, promoting cluster communications and backstopping the meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism in Africa and its clusters.

Subprogramme 3
Public information and awareness activities in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Objective of the Organization: To raise international support for the economic, political and social development of Africa, as well as for the efforts made by Africa and the international community to promote the economic recovery and sustainable development of the region in pursuit of the goals of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the achievement of the sustainable development goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced awareness of key thematic issues of NEPAD and other issues related to economic recovery and sustainable development in Africa	(a) (i) Increased number of visits and page views on the *Africa Renewal* website (ii) Increased number of online news features picked up and reprinted or republished by local media as a result of continuing interest

Strategy

9.22 Substantive responsibility for subprogramme 3 lies with the Department of Public Information. The overall strategy involves the development of global communications plans on priority issues affecting Africa, including generating support for the African Union and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency in Africa and in donor countries and for the sustainable development goals. The strategy is aimed at ensuring that such plans are implemented in coordination with the rest of the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Communications Group and the United Nations system as a whole, including the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and the Ten-Year Capacity-building Programme for the African Union and its successor. Activities will include publication of *Africa Renewal* magazine, web-only news and analysis, background notes, press releases and briefing papers for use by external media, both African and international. Dissemination to diverse target groups, such as youth, parliamentarians, policymakers, civil society and academic institutions, will be achieved through direct contact with individuals and groups, including through systematic outreach to African and international media to ensure that key players are informed of major initiatives affecting sustainable development in Africa.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

54/234	The causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
57/2	United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development
57/7	Final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

57/300	Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change
63/1	Political declaration on Africa's development needs
63/267	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
63/304	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
64/258	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
65/1	Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals
65/284	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
65/278	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
66/197	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
66/287	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
56/288	The future we want
66/293	A monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development
67/293	Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa
67/294	New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support
67/302	Cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union
68/6	Outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Security Council resolutions

1197 (1998)	Support for regional and subregional initiatives on Africa and strengthening of coordination between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in the area of conflict prevention and maintenance of peace
2033 (2012)	United Nations-African Union cooperation

Economic and Social Council

Ministerial declaration of the 2013 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, entitled "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals"